



Grant County Health Department

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For Immediate Release:

Testing and Controlling Home Radon is a Wise Investment

January is National Radon Month. Radon testing is a small investment that can pay big dividends for homeowners. The Grant County Health Department has **FREE** radon test kits available in January. Radon is an odorless, radioactive gas that is naturally present in the ground and enters houses through their foundations. Breathing radon for extended times increases the risk of lung cancer. Since radon is widespread and concentrations vary greatly from home to home, every home having contact with the ground should be tested.

If your radon level in your home is elevated, the risk of lung cancer and potential loss of a loved one can be serious. However, a home's radon level can be substantially reduced. The cost for reducing radon in your home is around \$1000, and the investment could make a home easier to sell.

More than 50 radon mitigation contractors in Wisconsin are nationally certified and install highly-effective systems. Thousands of systems are installed in existing homes in Wisconsin each year. When building a new home, features that reduce radon entry can be included for little added cost.

The US Environmental Protection Agency estimates that radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer after smoking and is responsible for several thousand preventable lung cancer deaths each year. State statistics indicate that between five and ten percent of the homes in Wisconsin have elevated airborne concentrations of radon in significantly occupied spaces.

For more radon information, go to the department's website at www.lowradon.com or call the Grant County Health Department at: (800) LOW-RADON or (608)723-6416.